

Aue. Stagecoach Inn and Complex,  
1878 House  
Boerne Stage Road, Interstate 10  
Leon Springs  
Bexar County  
Texas

HABS No. TX-3220 C

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PHOTOGRAPH

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

AUE STAGECOACH INN AND COMPLEX,  
1878 HOUSE

HABS No. TX-3220 C

Location: Boerne Stage Road, Interstate 10, Leon Springs, Bexar  
County, Texas.

Present Owner: Aue Family.

Present Occupant: Vacant.

Significance: The house, a part of the Aue Stagecoach Inn complex,  
represents an expansion of the enterprise in response to  
increased traffic caused by the new railroad nearby. It is  
typical of the residence-hotel structures erected during  
this period.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1878.
2. Original and subsequent owners: In 1852, Max Aue purchased land  
on which the house stands. It has been in the Aue family ever  
since.
3. Architect/Builder: B. Grossenbacher, a builder.
4. Original plans and construction: The construction details of  
the building are contained in the following transcribed  
document, a Contract and Builders Lien signed February 7, 1878,  
by Aue and his wife with B. Grossenbacher, the builder.  
Source: Mechanics Lien Book A, page 92, Bexar County Deed  
Records, Bexar County Courthouse, San Antonio, Texas.

"ARTICLE 1st -- B. Grossenbacher (Builder agrees to build a  
building for Max and Emma Sue Aue 'upon a certain lot of  
land in Leon Spring bounded . . . on the East by the  
Fredricksburg Road, on the West by \_\_\_\_\_ (sic), on the  
North by the Stage Road to Boerne, on the South \_\_\_\_\_  
(sic), containing 50 acres. Said building and improvements  
to be made according to the following specifications: A  
two story dwelling house, having 42 1/2 ft. front and  
32 ft. in depth on the outsides. The first story to have 3  
rooms and the second story to have 8 rooms and a hall. The  
foundation to be in the ground and (left blank in document)  
ft. above the ground, 2 ft. thick - in this foundation the  
walls shall be 1 1/2 ft. thick and high enough so as to  
give the first story a height of 12 ft. and the second  
story 10 ft. height in the clear. There shall be a  
partition wall of stone dividing the first story equally

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up to the floor joists of the second story. All the material to be furnished by the parties of the second part and all work by the party of the first part. The flooring joists in first story to be 2 x 8 inch - 2 feet apart, and to rest underneath the middle on a stone support in the middle by the stone partition wall. Flooring joists on galleries to be 2 x 6 inch - ceiling joists 2x6 inch to be placed 2 ft. apart. Rafters on gallery 2 x 4 inch . . . The roof on main house to be of one inch rough lumber and to be covered with the best I. C. tin and to receive the necessary gutters and pipes. The floors to be of one inch tongued and grooved calcasieu lumber - ceiling to be of tongued-and-grooved dressed lumber. Partition to be tongued-and-grooved lumber dressed on both sides. All rooms to have wash-boards 1 x 6 inch beaded on top. There shall be a gallery on first and second stories and extend all along the front and one side of both stories, 9 ft. wide. All gallery columns to be 7 x 8 inch boxed. The floor to be of one inch tongued-and-grooved calcasieu lumber - The stairs shall lead from first story to second - story gallery floor. All necessary railings to galleries and stair cases to be square balusters. The risers on stairs to be 4/8 inch treads 1-3/8 inch and 11 1/2 inch wide. There shall be 8 windows in first story to have 10 x 16 inch glass, 12 lights each and to receive blinds. There shall be 5 doors in first story 3 ft. x 7 ft., 1-3/8 inch thick; 4 of these to be outside doors to have transom lights above. There shall be 7 windows in second story to have 10 x 14 inch glass, 12 lights each 7 pair double glass doors leading on the gallery of 3 ft x 7 ft., 1-3/8 inch thick - All frames to above named doors and windows to be 16 inch wide and cased on the inside with 4 inch casings. There shall be 8 doors inside in second story to be 2 ft. 10 inch by 6 ft. 10 inch, and hung to suitable frames. All necessary lumber and hardware to be furnished by the party of first part, but the hauling to the ground shall be exclusively borne by the parties of the second part. All inside rock walls to be plastered with 2 coats of mortar and well whitewashed . . . All planed lumber in and outside to be painted with 3 coats of oil and white lead paint. There shall be a kitchen adjoining the main house 13 1/2 ft. x 18 1/2 ft. . . ."

"ARTICLE 2nd -- Aues agree to pay Grossenbacher \$2850 American silver and agree "that said sum of \$2850 to be paid by us to said party of first part . . . shall be and remain a lien upon the said described lot of land . . . improvements situated thereon, and upon all the improvements, buildings and meliorations made thereon by said party of first part . . . ."

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The design of the house represents a sharp contrast to the designs of the earlier structures -more elaborate. Features include doors with roundhead glass panels, Gothic trim on the porch roofs, wide lintels and porch columns with capitals.
2. Condition of fabric: The porch and external woodwork are in ruinous condition. The walls, however, appear to be in good condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The two-story rectangular house measures 32'-11" x 42'-7", excluding the porch and the west shed addition. The porch is 9'-5" high.
2. Foundations: Rubble limestone.
3. Walls: Yellowish soft coursed limestone rubble stonework are on the north and west walls. The south and east walls are plastered stone; the plaster is yellowish under the front porch and grey on the east.
4. Structural system, framing: The joists have the exact dimensions as called for in the specifications: first floor, 2" by 8", 24" centers; and second floor, 2" by 6", 24" centers. The roof is of wooden construction. Interior was inaccessible, however.
5. Porch: A two-story gallery extends across the front (south) facade and originally continued around the east facade, but is now removed. Framing for the porch is 2" by 6" joists, and rafters are 2" by 4". The roof of the porch is a continuation of the house roof, truncated on the east facade where the porch has been removed. Supports are 7" by 8" boxed piers with simple capitals of Roman Tuscan derivation on plain plinths, with scroll-saw brackets on the lower story posts and a scroll-saw "architrave" on the upper story. The floors and upper ceiling are tongue-and-groove boards; lower ceiling unfinished.
6. Chimneys: Two rubble stone chimneys on the center of west elevation are flush with the wall.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: All doorways are spanned by wide ashlar limestone lintels and framed with wood. The first floor doorways on the south, east and west elevations

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have two roundhead glass panels and two panels. The door of the wooden shed addition to the west of the house is the same as the second floor doors. The rear one-story stone addition has a replacement five-horizontal panel door.

- b. Windows and shutters: All openings are spanned by wide ashlar limestone lintels. Windows on the lower floor are 6/6 light double hung wood sash. Those on the second floor are 4/4 light double hung wood sash. All windows had, at one time, adjustable wood louver shutters.

- 8. Roof: The roof is hipped, but truncated at the east wall where the porch has been removed. It has a standing-seam metal cover.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plans: The first floor has four rooms connected by doorways; the upper floor, eight rooms flanking a central hall. The shed addition adjacent to the house's west side includes a bathroom.
- 2. Stairway: Now in ruins, the stairway originally connected the lower with the upper south gallery. It was a wood straight type with wood balusters. There is no interior stairway.
- 3. Flooring: Tongue-and-groove boards.
- 4. Walls: Tongue-and-groove board ceilings and partitions. The masonry walls are plastered.
- 5. Doors: Paneled wood doors.
- 6. Hardware: Typical for the period.
- 7. Mechanical equipment:
  - a. Heating: Originally by fireplaces, now removed.
  - b. Lighting: Had been wired for electricity.

D. Site:

- 1. General setting and orientation: The house faces south, the long axis oriented north to south. The property is bounded on the east by Fredericksburg Road and on the west by Boerne Stage Road, now an access road for Interstate-10. The house is very close to Fredericksburg Road, which it parallels. To the south of the house are a one-and-a-half story house, a water tower, a windmill and a privy.

### III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

#### Bibliography: \_

Deed records, Bexar County Courthouse, San Antonio, Texas.  
H2/472-473; K2/155, 166, 176; L2/144; X1/94,95.

Lien records, Bexar County Courthouse, San Antonio, Texas. Mechanics  
Lien Book-A, page 92.

Records of the Aue family.

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Director, Bexar County  
Architecture Survey  
and  
Wesley I. Shank  
Project Supervisor  
Historic American Buildings Survey  
1968

### PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The San Antonio project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in the summer of 1968, and was made possible with funds from HABS and two sponsors, the Bexar County Historical Survey Committee and the San Antonio Conservation Society. Under the direction of James Massey, Chief of HABS, the project was carried out by Wesley I. Shank (Iowa State University), project supervisor, and by student assistant architects, Charles W. Barrow (University of Texas); Les Beilinson (University of Miami); William H. Edwards (University of Illinois); and Larry D. Hermsen (Iowa State University) at the HABS field office in the former Ursuline Convent buildings, San Antonio. John C. Garner, Jr., director of Bexar County Architecture Survey, did the outside work on the written documentaries. Susan McCown, a HABS staff historian in the Washington, D.C. office, edited the written data in 1983, for preparation of transmittal to the Library of Congress. Dewey G. Mears of Austin, Texas took the documentary photographs of the San Antonio structures.